

The Office of Homeland Security within the Department of Public Safety works with local communities on a daily basis to ensure South Dakotans are safe and secure.

“Our first priority is to prevent any terrorist activity in South Dakota,” said John Berheim, director of Homeland Security. “The Office of Homeland Security has developed an excellent information sharing partnership between federal, state and local officials. We can all work together to keep South Dakota a safe place to live,” said Berheim. “However, I am realistic enough to know that no matter how much protection we have, the possibility of something happening still exists. Therefore, we must do all we can to ensure both state and local officials have the means to respond and recover from acts of terrorism.”

Homeland Security Grants are a key tool local communities can use to keep their residents safe and prepared. These monies allow local jurisdictions to determine top priority needs. Examples include: equipment, planning, training, and exercise funding for emergency prevention, preparedness, and response personnel.

In order to better inform you of the complete process involved with these Homeland Security grants, we have provided the outline below:

South Dakota's local jurisdictions grant process:

- The president signs the Fiscal Year Homeland Security Appropriations Act, awarding funding to the states.
- South Dakota applies for funding through a grant application process and submits packages to the federal Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) for review and approval. (Final approval may take up to two months.)
- ODP allocates the funds to the states.
- Once approved, states have 60 days to determine awards for each local jurisdiction, as well as state equipment, planning, training, exercise, and administrative needs.
- Award letters are mailed to all jurisdictions within the 60 day timeframe. The mailing includes a reimbursement agreement, a request for a local equipment list, and the ODP standardized equipment list.
- Local jurisdictions must establish a committee of local decision makers. These decision makers are people who have the responsibility for the protection of people and critical assets in their community. Examples of individuals who should be on this committee would be representatives from the city and county commissions, law enforcement, fire departments, emergency management, emergency medical services, public works, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, chemical storage facilities, bulk fuel storage facilities, gas pipelines, electrical services, rural water systems and communication systems.
- All local decision makers are expected to work together to develop equipment lists, planning, and training needs. These needs must be based upon the provided 2004 equipment list. All requests must be submitted through the county or tribal emergency managers. These requests are then delivered to the South Dakota Office of Homeland Security for review and ODP approval.
- Based on local jurisdictions' priorities, decision makers must return the following to the South Dakota Office of Homeland Security by assigned deadlines: 2004 Equipment List selections (Budget Detail Worksheets), a signed reimbursement agreement, and a committee meeting roster.
- South Dakota Office of Homeland Security will review the Budget Detail Worksheets for eligibility purposes and send an approval letter.
- Local entities may then begin making purchases of the approved equipment.
- Local jurisdiction must submit invoices for reimbursement.
- Local jurisdictions submit invoices to the South Dakota Office of Homeland Security, which are processed for payment at least two times per month.

For more information regarding the South Dakota Homeland Security Program Grant process contact the South Dakota Office of Homeland Security at (605)773-3450.